

Neatishead Parish Council

Internal Audit Report

For Neatishead Parish / Town Council

Financial Year 2025/2026

Including Explanatory Notes for Annual Return

Prepared by Mrs Jo Raby, 28/05/2026

I have completed an internal audit of the accounts for Neatishead Council for the year ending 2026.

My findings are detailed below using the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2021.

I would like to thank the Clerk/RFO for providing me with all the information required for the Internal Audit.

Internal control	Test	Observations
Proper bookkeeping	Is the cashbook maintained and up to date?	Yes
	Is the cashbook arithmetically correct?	Yes
	Is the cashbook regularly balanced?	Yes
Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and payment controls	Has the council formally adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations?	Yes
	Date Standing Orders last reviewed	Sep 23

	Date Financial Regulations last reviewed	Feb 24
	Has a Responsible finance officer been appointed with specific duties?	Yes the clerk is the RFO
	Have items or services above the de minimus amount been competitively purchased?	Yes quotes received and compared
	Are payments in the cashbook supported by purchase orders, invoices, authorised and minuted?	Yes
	Has VAT on payments been identified, recorded and reclaimed?	Yes
	Is s137 expenditure separately recorded and within statutory limits?	Yes
	Have S137 payments been approved and included in the minutes as such?	Yes
Risk management arrangements	Does a review of the minutes identify any unusual financial activity?	No
	Do minutes record the council carrying out an annual risk assessment or review of their risk management scheme?	No
	Is insurance cover appropriate and adequate?	Yes
	Are internal financial controls documented and regularly reviewed?	Yes
Budgetary controls	Has the council prepared an annual budget in support of its precept and has this been minuted as being approved?	Yes
	Has the precept been calculated from the budget and been approved?	Yes Jan 26
	Does the budget include an actual completed year?	Yes
	Is actual expenditure against budget regularly reported to the council?	Yes in minutes
	Are there any significant unexplained variances from budget?	No
Income controls	Is income properly recorded and promptly banked?	Yes
	Does the precept recorded agree to the Council Tax authority's notification?	Yes
	Are security controls over cash and near-cash adequate and effective?	n/a
Petty cash procedures	Is all petty cash spent recorded and supported by VAT invoices/receipts?	Yes
	Is petty cash expenditure reported to each council meeting?	Yes
	Is petty cash reimbursement carried out regularly?	Electronic payments are submitted when required

Payroll controls	Do all employees have contracts of employment with clear terms and conditions?	Yes checked
	Do salaries paid agree with those approved by the council?	Yes
	Are salaries above the National Living Wage/Minimum Wage?	Yes
	Are other payments to employees reasonable and approved by the council?	Yes
	Have PAYE/NIC been properly operated by the council as an employer?	Yes
Asset controls	Does the council maintain a register of all material assets owned or in its care?	Yes
	Are the assets and Investments registers up to date? When were these last reviewed?	Yes – March 26
	Do asset insurance valuations agree with those in the asset register?	Yes
Bank reconciliation	Is there a bank reconciliation for each account and is this reported to council?	Yes
	Is a bank reconciliation carried out regularly and in a timely fashion?	Yes
	Are there any unexplained balancing entries in any reconciliation?	No
	Is the value of investments held summarised on the reconciliation?	N/A
Year-end procedures	Are year-end accounts prepared on the correct accounting basis (Receipts and Payments or Income and Expenditure)?	Yes
	Do accounts agree with the cashbook?	Yes
	Has a year-end bank reconciliation been undertaken?	Yes
	Is there an audit trail from underlying financial records to the accounts?	Yes
	Where appropriate, have debtors and creditors been properly recorded?	Yes
Procedural	Is eligibility for the General Power of Competence properly evidenced?	Yes
	Have points raised on the last Internal Audit report been considered by council and actioned?	N/A
Transparency: For smaller councils with turnover under £25,000	Minutes for whole year on website?	Yes
	Agendas for whole year on website?	Yes
	Payments over £100 detailed on website?	Yes
	Electors' rights advertised on website?	Yes

	Councillors' responsibilities detailed on website?	Yes
	Last financial year's Annual Return on website?	Yes
	Land and building assets details on website? (Description, location, owner/leaseholder, date and cost of acquisition and present use)	Yes
Burial Authorities only	Are fees levied in accordance with the Council's approved scale of fees and charges?	n/a
	Have fees for the cemetery been reviewed and agreed by Council?	n/a
	Were comparisons made with other cemeteries prior to setting the fees?	n/a
	Have burial books been kept up to date and are they safely stored?	n/a
Allotments	Has a list of allotment holders with amounts paid to Council been submitted?	N/A
	Have fees for the allotments been reviewed and agreed by Council?	N/A
Councils with charities only	Have Charities reported and accounted separately?	N/A
	Have the Charity accounts been independently audited?	N/A
	Have the Charity accounts and Annual Return been filed within the legal time limit?	N/A

Summary of my recommendations:

To review standing orders and financial regulations
To complete a review of risk management scheme

Miss Jo Raby

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Signed

28/05/2026

Date